

Fighting fires and giving shots

Bay Fire Department lends a helping hand at Loudoun Medical Clinic. Page 12

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The Sea Coast Echo

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VOL. 114, NO. 13 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

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ONE SECTION, 12 PAGES 75 CENTS

Pearlington Water & Sewer

The time for the regular monthly meeting of the Pearlington Water and Sewer District has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 2, in the Fire Department conference trailer in Pearlington.

Waveland Little League meeting

Waveland Little League will play baseball this season. Anyone age 5-14 years old interested in playing can contact Shelly @ 547-6541 or Jason @ 547-0457 for registration information. General elections meeting on Feb. 19 at 4p.m. at the ball field. Anyone interested in coaching, umpiring, or volunteering should attend or call.

CCA Bay Chapter Meeting

The Coastal Conservation Association will meet today, at 6 p.m. at the home of Ernie Zimmerman, 719 Zimmerman Lane in Waveland. Food and drinks provided. Traveling west on 90, go past Wal-Mart, turn left on Spanish Trail by Frank's Frame & Shooting. Turn right on Margie St. Go down two streets, turn right on Zimmerman Lane. Last house on the left.

Call the FEMA fraud hotline

FEMA sponsors a toll-free fraud hotline. Call 1-866-720-5721 to report complaints of price-gouging, scams, fraud and other hurricane related crime. Or call the attorney general in Jackson toll-free at 1-800-281-4418.

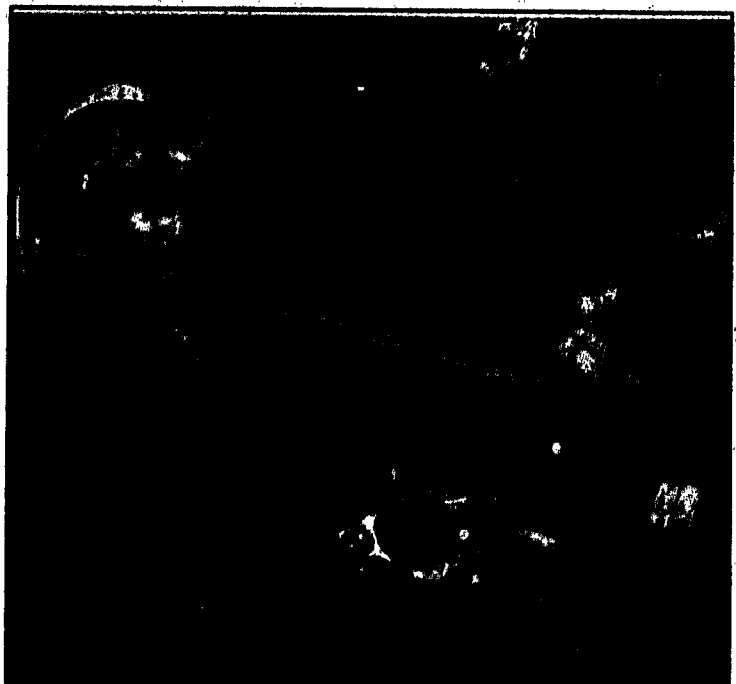
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Krewe of Kids



Echo staff photo by Dwayne Bremer
Kids and parents alike braves chilly weather for this years Krewe of Kids Parade. This years parade featured over 50 area kids. Supervisor Lisa Coward was the Grand Marshal, and Mayor Eddie Favre drove the car for this year's king and queen.



North Bay, Waveland schools may move

Storm damage was so extensive, FEMA thinks buildings should be relocated

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

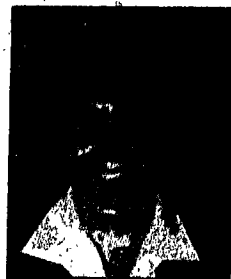
Preliminary discussion took place Monday evening about the future of both North Bay and Waveland Elementary schools. The Bay-Waveland School Board heard from a FEMA representative who stated that as of Feb 6, 2006, all buildings that receive public assistance from FEMA must be built up to the new FEMA base flood elevation levels. This does not apply right now to residents, however, the Bay-Waveland School District has two schools that will be directly affected by this new guideline.

"The new buildings will have to meet new guidelines, and may have to be raised or relocated," said the representative.

The school board has had idea's about relocating North Bay, however, the status of Waveland Elementary and even Second Street Elementary are still up in the air.

"North Bay had a great deal of damage, and was mostly destroyed" said Superintendent Kim Stasny. "FEMA thinks that we would be better off relocating the school out of the flood zone."

As for Waveland Elementary, FEMA has already determined that the



Dr. Kim Stasny

SCHOOLS--PAGE 6

Taylor: CDBG grants a 'good deal' for MS

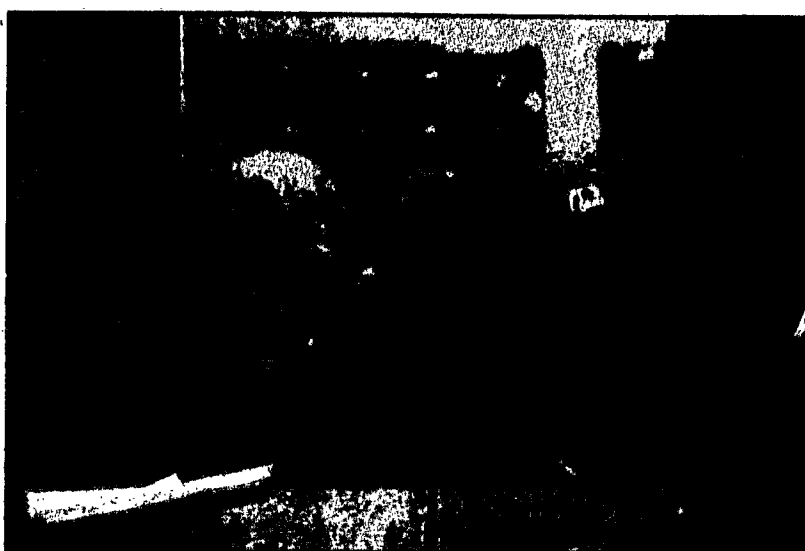
BY GEOFF BELCHER
News Editor

"I said on the House floor that there should be a national registry for child molesters and insurance executives ...," U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor told a room full of Katrina-victims Monday evening at the Our

Lady of the Gulf community center. "My opinion is the insurance industry has behaved shamelessly."

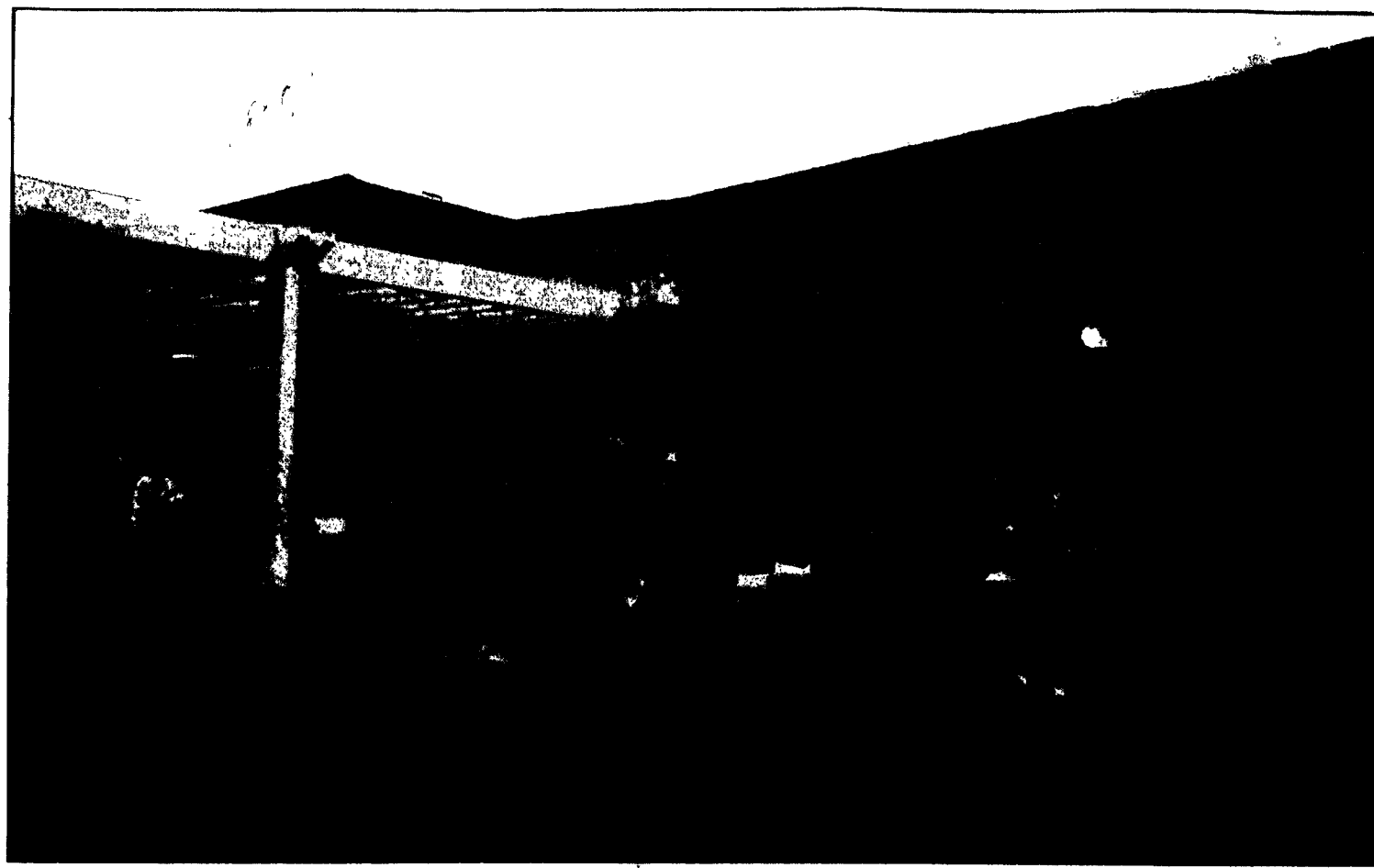
Since the insurance industry didn't "step up" to help the people it should have, Taylor

TAYLOR--PAGE 6



U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor meets with Hancock Countians in a Town Hall meeting Monday at the Our Lady of the Gulf Community Center in Bay St. Louis.

Echo staff photo by Geoff Belcher



Crowds Flock to Kiln Library for Arbor Day Trees

Cold weather could not stop the crowds from coming to the Hancock County Kiln library to receive free trees and to purchase trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District and Mississippi Forestry Commission were on hand along with the Hancock County Auxiliary and Earth Team Members to help with the distribution of these seedlings. Each year the HCSWCD sponsors this event and this year of course was even more special because of the need to replant our landscapes. They sold out of trees in 30 minutes and gave away 800 free trees.

Car chase lands suspect in jail

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

Hancock County deputies went on a wild ride Saturday afternoon, as a suspect led deputies on an extended vehicle chase through the Bayside park area, and at one point, deputies claim the suspect tried to ram and run over officers set up to try to stop him.

Michael Stringer, 44, 10055 McKinley street Bay St. Louis, was booked and charged with 17 different charges, after the chase came to a peaceful end on Choctaw street.

According to Sheriff's Department reports, at or near 2:00 PM on Saturday afternoon, Deputy Jodi Richardson attempted to stop a dark

colored 96 Chevy extended cab vehicle at the corner of Lakeshore Rd. and Clermont Blvd.

The vehicle sped away, and Richardson began his to follow. The vehicle led deputies throughout the Bayside park area. The report said that the vehicle was going in excess of 100 miles per hour at times, and that the subject showed total disregard for public safety and well being of anything in its path.

When the vehicle had reached Leake street, Deputy Abry Liebig had set up to stop the vehicle. The report states that the vehicle attempted to ram Liebig, and the suspects vehicle made contact with Liebig's vehicle on the back side, as Liebig

went into the ditch to avoid contact.

The suspect then crossed Hwy. 90, on to harbor drive and, officers from the Waveland and Bay St. Louis Police departments joined the chase.

The vehicle was located at a residence on Choctaw street, was arrested after deputies found him hiding under a tree.

Stringer was taken to the Pearl River County Jail, and charged with 14 moving traffic violations, possession of a controlled substance and paraphernalia, and aggravated assault on a police officer. There was no bond set on Stringer at the time of arrest. Deputies seized more than \$5,000 dollars cash,

as well as pipes, needles, and marijuana.

Stringer was already out on bond on two other non-related drug charges.

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Outpatient rehab services, including cardiac rehab, are offered at HMC's Diamondhead Complex, located at Shepherd Square (access road alongside Diamondhead Supermarket). Several local physicians are currently seeing patients in this complex.

FAMILY PRACTICE:

Bert Chevis, M.D. - Mon./Tues/Thurs Shepherd Sq. Diamondhead Wed./Fri. 149 Drinkwater BSL 467-8422
Sidney Chevis, M.D., 644 Dunbar Ave., BSL, M-Thurs 8-3; (228) 467-9238
Roberta Chilimigras, M.D. - Temporary office at her Waveland clinic, (228) 467-9281
Ron Kellum, M.D. - Indian Hill, Diamondhead, (228) 586-9229
David Roberts, M.D. - Gex Road, Diamondhead, (228) 255-4300

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James Crittenden, M.D. - M-F, 9am till 3, (228) 467-1414
Rowe Crowder, M.D. - 149 Drinkwater Blvd., Bay St. Louis, (228) 463-1649
Arcana Bansai, M.D. (Coastal Fam. Health) Walk Ins, Hospital Drive, BSL

PEDIATRICS:

Scott Needle M.D. - Mon. & Wed., 9 am-12, Shepherd Square, Diamondhead Tues., Thurs, Fri., 149 Drinkwater, Bay St. Louis 467-2200
Shama Shakir, M.D. - (Coastal Fam. Health) Walk-Ins, Hospital Drive, BSL
Bertrand Sy, M.D. - Opening Early 2006

PODIATRY:

Jeff Benzing, D.P.M. - Tues., Shepherd Sq., Diamondhead 586-0014

OB/GYN:

Noel Duplantier, M.D. - 1009 Benigno Lane, BSL, (228) 467-2555
Jerry Karabin, M.D. - Mon. & Fri., Shepherd Square, Diamondhead, 228-424-2855
Dimitri Yanez, M.D. - 1009 Benigno Lane, BSL, (228) 467-2555

CARDIOLOGY:

Mohammad Awaad, M.D. - Shepherd Square, Diamondhead, Tues. afternoons
Bassam Baroudi, M.D. - Shepherd Square, Diamondhead (Wed., noon-3) 586-0014
Jay Libys, M.D. - Gex Road, Diamondhead by appointment (228) 868-5555
Wakkas Tayara, M.D. - Shepherd Square, Diamondhead, (Thurs. 9-11) 586-0014

GENERAL SURGERY:

Brian Anthony, M.D. - Opening soon, Bay St. Louis (228) 467-1386
Joseph R. Lee, M.D. - Mon/Tues/Thurs, 149 Drinkwater, BSL Wed/Fri Shepherd Sq., Diamondhead 467-0298

ORAL SURGERY:

Richard Akin DDS, 1013 Hwy 90, BSL, (228) 467-4229

OPHTHALMOLOGY:

John Bourgeois, M.D. - 5405 Indian Hill, Diamondhead (228) 255-8585

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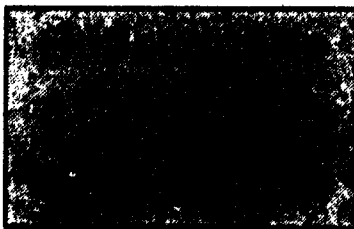
Hancock Historical Society to host luncheon Thursday

The February luncheon of The Hancock County Historical Society will be on Feb. 16 at noon at the Headquarters, 108 Cue Street in Bay St. Louis. Architect John Anderson will be the guest speaker. He will speak on the rebuilding plans for Bay St. Louis and Waveland. The cost of the luncheon

is \$7, payable at the door. Please call for reservations as seating is limited (467-4090).

The following were elected at last month's meeting and will be installed on Thursday. President: Melinda Richard; 1st Vice President: Doris Muniz; 2nd Vice President: Mary Perkins; Secretary: Zita

Waller; Treasurer: Ruth Thompson; Publicity: Lili Stahler; Historian: Ellis Cuevas; Membership: Jerry Zimmerman.



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Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy McNinch celebrate their nuptials Friday on live television with their families, friends and Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa.

Hancock County's Staci Tompkins and Jeremy McNinch marry 'Live'

SEA COAST ECHO

A dream came true Friday for Hancock County's own Staci Tompkins and Jeremy McNinch, who wed "Live with Regis and Kelly."

The "Live with Regis and Kelly" studio was transformed into a wedding fantasy on Friday, with white tulips, Waterford crystal chandeliers and all of the bride and groom's family and friends. The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.,

of Manhattan's Riverside Church performed a moving ceremony, telling Jeremy and Staci that their love has been put to the test, but "has weathered the storm and left you standing tall with confidence and great hope for a beautiful future together." Singing icon Etta James performed the ultra-romantic song "At Last" as the processional. Regis escorted the mothers of the bride and groom down the aisle,

and the bride was given away by her father, Robert Tompkins.

Throughout the show, "Live" producers kept the surprises coming, including a \$10,000 Gift Registry with Target Club Wedd, a wedding night suite at the Waldorf Towers and a luxurious honeymoon in Bora Bora, Tahiti. But the couple seemed most moved by two special gifts: first, Ashley Furniture HomeStores will help to re-furnish

their home and replace the furniture lost in the hurricane. And the biggest surprise was saved for last: Ameriquet Mortgage is giving Jeremy and Staci a check for \$100,000 to begin rebuilding their home and their lives.

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Diamondhead Parade celebrates recovery

BY DWAYNE
BREMER
Staff Writer

The annual Diamondhead Mardi Gras Parade will once again roll through the street of Diamondhead on Saturday Feb. 18 at noon.

This years parade will have the theme "Diamondhead Survives", and will celebrate the recovery efforts going on in the community. There will be no newly crowned king and queen for this years parade, however, last years king and queen, mario and Charlotte

Fieolo will serve as the symbols of this years theme, "King Surge and Queen Katrina".

"The parade will show that Diamondhead has survived, and that we are coming back," said Ron Flattery a parade official. "We are hoping for a big crowd, and a great day."

The parade will take the normal route from the community center to the country club.

"This will be a great event for the people and the children of Diamondhead," said Deborah Delong of Diamondhead news.



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Opinion

Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas
Publisher Emeritus

I believe the children are the future

It's that time of the month once again, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours.

This month's After Hours is sponsored by Bay Totle, 303 Hwy. 90, Bay St. Louis. The day is tomorrow (Thursday), February 16, 5-7 p.m.

Catering will be provided by Southern Delights with music by Party Time Productions.

This is a great time to renew old acquaintances, as well as making new ones. Don't forget to bring along some business cards, as you may be lucky and win a door prize.

It is good news with soil borings underway for the bridge across the Bay of St. Louis.

There are several areas across the Bay where it takes very long pilings to reach a solid foundation.

Also, it is reported that the bridge's design is also being undertaken.

I keep hearing so many folks concerned by the lack of a bridge across the bay. Hopefully, a ferry system will be initiated very soon as a temporary solution.

It is great that our Bay High Students celebrated their annual homecoming dance earlier this month.

And in the midst of our many problems, the homecoming dance at Bay High was adopted by the Student Council of Fairhope, AL.

The student council members from Fairhope, as well as our local students, will remember this event the rest of their lives.

Our youth helping each other will be carried out as these leaders of tomorrow take over, as we drop out of the picture.

MDOT should hit the road

By any name—MDOT, State Highway Commission, or what it really is, a statewide county board of supervisors—ever since the state began building a highway system in 1936, the three-member elected agency in charge of it has been an albatross around Mississippi's neck.

Throughout more than the first 50 years of its existence, it was known as the State Highway Commission. In the early 1990s, it was renamed the Mississippi Department of Transportation, and took on the glorified acronym, MDOT.

But today's state's elected highway body is still the same archaic body of three members elected by districts it always was, the only in the country where the

governor has no voice and there is scant legislative oversight.

Once again, it is the target of heavy public criticism. The loudest is rightfully coming from the Katrina-battered Mississippi Gulf Coast, where billions of dollars in federal money are being sent down from Washington earmarked for rebuilding shattered bridges and highways.

This means MDOT has been handed the biggest pot of money it has had its hand on in years. But now five

months after Katrina hit, angry coast folks are seeing no results and a litany of excuses coming out of MDOT.

The word "arrogant" is commonly being used to describe the response Coast people are getting from MDOT brass, especially its executive director, Butch Brown, who seems to dominate the agency, even though he is not an elected official. But he gained his power by forming a close alliance with two of three commissioners.

Ironically, 30 years

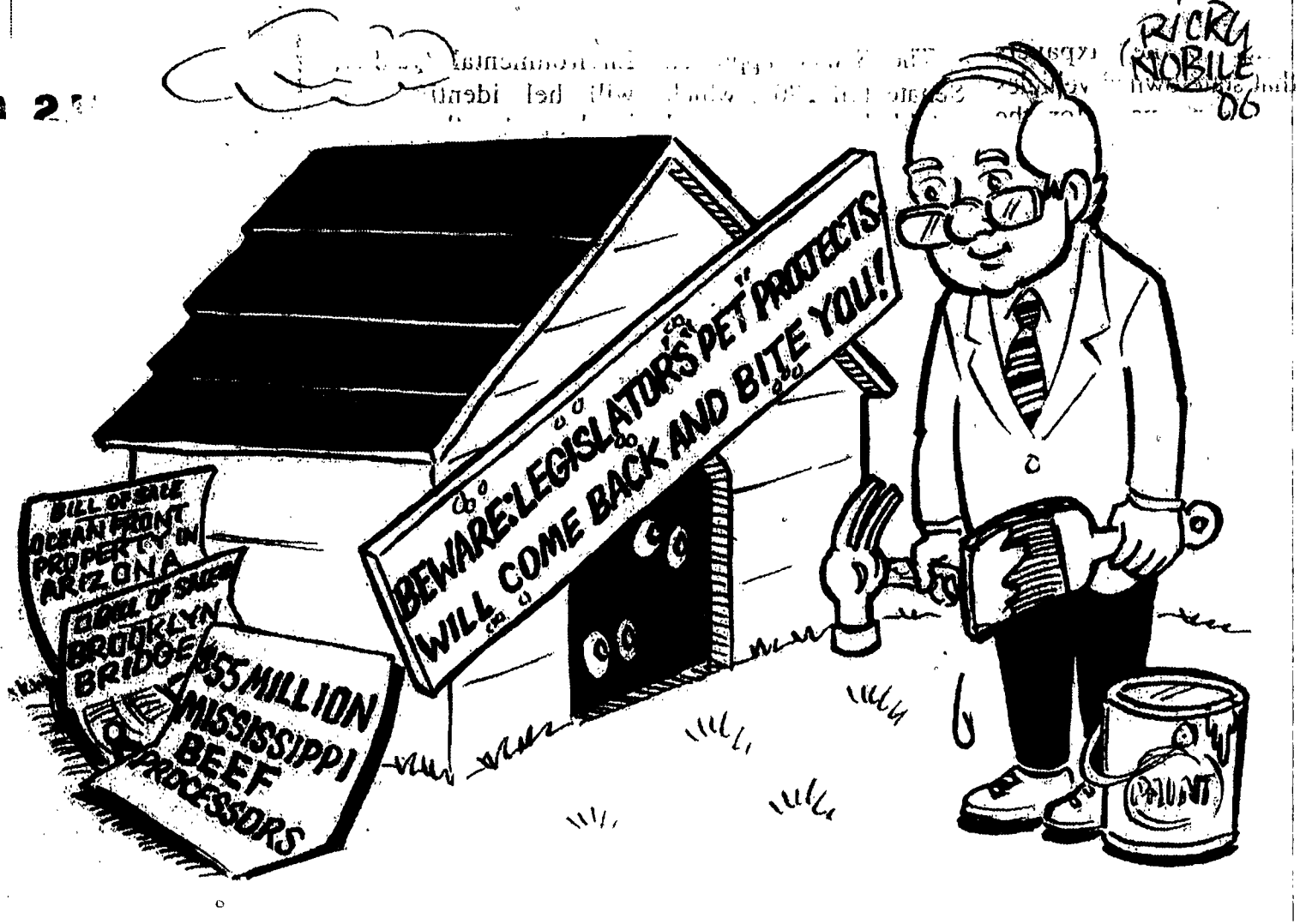
ago this year, one of Brown's predecessors, the commission's then-highly touted director, former state Rep. E. L. Boteler, Jr., became the first state official in many years to be convicted of embezzlement of public funds.

Boteler, who had been appointed by the commission as a concession to the Legislature because of his reputation as a legislative watchdog of highway money, wound up pocketing \$200,000 of its funds and sentenced to the slammer.

Over a 14 year span after Boteler went down, amazingly, three elected commissioners were convicted on charges for either taking kickbacks from road contractors or

MINOR--PAGE 6

A BETTER USE FOR THE LANDWATER+TIMBER BOARD



Letters to the Editor

Thanks for helping the KaBoom! park

Wilcox Park, given to the city of Waveland by the community leader and businessman, D.E. Wilcox, is now the home to a beautiful new KaBoom! playground. Mr. Wilcox, respected for his devotion to his family, community and his love for children, would certainly be pleased by this. Motorola funded the playground and sent out more than one hundred of their top executives to participate in the building of the new play space.

This was truly a com-



munity event in every sense. The County Supervisors, Lisa Cowan and Jay Cuevas, along with County Attorney, Ronnie Artigues, were steadfast and incredibly responsive in making certain that the site was fully prepared for build day. Countless volunteer hours were spent to make this project a reality, which included the very talented Magnolia

Ladies, in particular Mary Kay Hubbard, Sherry Ponder and Rhea Scafidi, who provided the hospitality and local logistical support for the project. The highly energized NCCC Americorps group stayed on site the entire week to help prep and organize the event and were aided along by our friends from the Mississippi Department of Corrections. The inde-

fatigable Jo Gilmore lent her time and talent to ensure that the event, which took only six hours from start to finish, would run smoothly. It was the local children who brought their joy and enthusiasm on build day, along with the beautiful stepping stones that they made to enhance the landscaping. Howie Long, NFL Hall of Fame great, greeted the children and signed footballs and headsets for them for hours. Katrina's mightiest effort could not prevent the citizens of Waveland from once again earning their position as the

LETTERS--PAGE 5

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James R. (Randy) Ponder, Editor and Publisher
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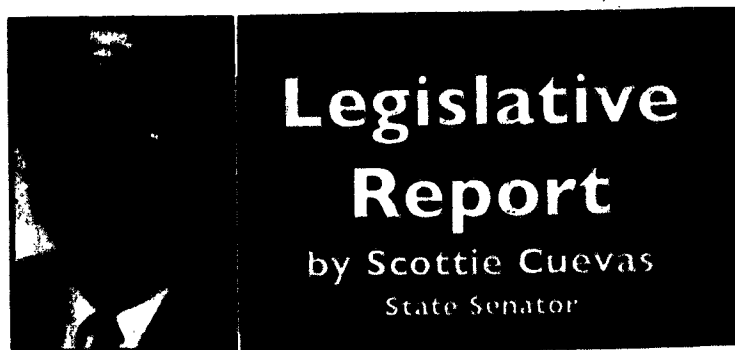
Midway in the Legislative Session

This week marked the midway point of the 2006 Legislative Session. We had an enormous volume of work and two major deadlines facing us.

February 9th was the deadline for the Senate to finish original floor action on Senate bills and February 10th was the deadline for reconsideration and passage of Senate bills. Our days were long, the debates often were heated; but by the end of the week we had finished our pending work.

One major accomplishment of the week was the passage of SB 2398, which approves the creation of the Office of Fleet Management within the Department of Finance and Administration. This new office will help manage the thousands of vehicles owned by the state of Mississippi and make sure these vehicles are being properly purchased and operated. New software will be purchased that can analyze and provide information to the office with regard to purchasing, maintenance and fleet management.

The office will have authority over state agencies in regard to the number and type of vehicles that are purchased and will require each agency to submit to the bureau a vehicle acquisition/use/disposal plan on an annual basis. This bill offers accountability to the taxpayers that state-owned vehicles are being used for the intended purposes for which they were purchased. It also helps eliminate any potential abuse of vehicle usage by state employees.



Legislative Report

by Scottie Cuevas
State Senator

Another accomplishment was the passage of Senate bill 2899, which increases the length of imprisonment to be served for committing statutory rape. Under this bill, a person 18 years or older found guilty of statutory rape against a victim under 12 must serve a sentence at least not less than 25 years. If that perpetrator is found guilty of subsequent counts of statutory rape against a victim under 12, the perpetrator is to be remanded to the Department of Corrections for life without the possibility of parole.

We also passed a bill that affects mothers. Senate Bill 2419 affirms that breast-feeding is a right that does not constitute a criminal offense. A woman may breast-feed her child in any location, public or private, where she is otherwise authorized to be, without regard to whether any part of her breast is uncovered during the course of breast-feeding. The bill further says no county, municipality or other political subdivision may enact any ordinance restricting a woman's right to breast-feed her child.

The Senate approved Senate bill 2807, which establishes statewide building codes for the design, construction and inspection of residential and commercial buildings. Counties are not mandated to adopt the

code but may opt into the program. The code contains minimum standards for natural disaster resistance, fire resistance, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas and sanitation. These building codes are to be updated on a three-year cycle. The bill also calls for emergency wind and flood improvement requirements for Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, George, Stone, Pearl River, Perry, Greene, Lamar and Forrest counties until the building codes are enacted in those areas. This bill helps ensure that individuals rebuilding homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina will meet the qualifications set forth by the federal government for the Community Development Grant Program. The bill also ensures that home and businesses built/rebuilt will be better able to resist damage from natural forces in the future.

Senate bill 2943 also impacts the areas most affected by Hurricane Katrina. This bill creates the Mississippi Gulf Coast Utility Board. The board, along with the Department of Environmental Quality, will help identify and implement the best means to meet all present and future water, wastewater, storm water and solid waste needs. The purpose is to reduce the cost, promote the

resilience in the event of disaster and improve the quality of these services in the Gulf Coast counties.

Two bills were adopted that deal with election procedures. First, Senate Bill 2308 requires that candidates for political office provide loan information on campaign finance reports. Specifically, candidate must make available the identification of all creditors, cosigners or other parties to the loan or related transaction. It also requires the disclosure of how the loan was utilized. Additionally, it requires that all details concerning repayment of the loan be disclosed, including the time of the repayments, the method of repayments, the amount of repayments, and the sources or individuals involved in the repayments.

The Senate also addressed the sensitive issue of voter identification. Passed was Senate Bill 2309, which requires individuals to show a form of identification before voting. Voters can choose from multiple forms of identification including, but not limited to, a driver's license photo employee identification badge, voter registration card or social security card. The bill also provides provisions for punishing those who intimidate or prevent an eligible voter from voting.

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NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

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U.S. COAST GUARD TO HOLD PRE-BID CONFERENCE FOR MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL

The U.S. Coast Guard Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic (MLCLANT) Norfolk, VA has been tasked to procure removal and disposal services of debris in residential canals within three counties in the State of Mississippi. The debris, which was caused by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, includes a broad spectrum of both non-hazardous and hazardous items. Sample pictorial views of these areas are posted at <http://www.uscg.mil/mlclant/fdiv/fdiv.html> under HSCGMS-DEBRIS.

Detailed information on the below sites should be available at the following Web site: www.fedbizzopps.gov or www.fbo.gov.

The issuance of a draft solicitation is anticipated on or about March 1, 2006, with a pre-solicitation conference on or about, 9:00 AM, March 8, 2006 at the Harrison County Courthouse, Gulfport, MS.

Interested parties must be registered in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) as prescribed in FAR Clause 52.232-33. To register in the CCR, you must go to www.ccr.gov and have a Dun & Bradstreet number. A Dun & Bradstreet number can be obtained by calling 1-866-705-5711. This is required prior to any contract award.

The places of performance are (1) Hancock County - Jordan River Isles, (2) Harrison County - Henderson Point and, (3) Jackson County - Enger Street/Saint Mary Street Canals and Waterways.

For additional information, go to www.fedbizzopps.gov or www.fbo.gov or contact the USCG, MLCLANT, Ph. 757-628-4129, Fax: 757-628-4134.

Letters

Continued from Page 4

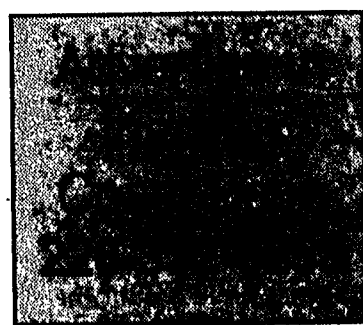
"Hospitality City."

Perhaps the next time that there is an uplifting event such as this, Mayor Tommy Longo will choose not to be interviewed for the television station from within the confines of his office, standing in front of a schematic of the playground, but will choose instead to come out and greet and thank the volunteers and all those that made this possible himself. The recovery of Waveland will depend not only on governmental dollars but probably

even more importantly, the continued generosity and outpouring of compassion from people around the country and the world. Giving with a glad heart is important, but receiving the gift with grace and sincere thanks is tantamount. Waveland's future very much will depend on wise, solid and strong

leadership.

Sincerely,
Virginia Vegas
Reynolds



BSL Babe Ruth Baseball Registration

BSL Babe Ruth Baseball will conduct registration for children ages 4-12 on February 23, 27, and March 2, 3 and 9 from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Bay St. Louis City Complex at the Train Depot.

For additional information call Ronnie Artigues (467-5426), Jerry Rigby (467-5744) or Paula McRaney (323-2888).

PAGE/BE PDF

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Minor -- MDOT

Continued from Page 4

other degrees of corruption and got jail time.

Despite this sordid record, and periodic investigations that revealed gross mismanagement and waste of tax money, the archaic state highway agency has withstood moves by at least four governors to either junk it entirely and replace it with a professionally-run appointive system or significantly curb its powers.

Legislative mistrust has been evident every time lawmakers have enacted a big highway spending program going back to Gov. Hugh White's landmark 1936 program that finally put paved highways around the state where there had been mud and dirt roads before.

White succeeded where no one else has: he got lawmakers to replace the three-member elected highway commission with a highway czar appointed by him. Even

though that marked the state's greatest advance in highway building, it lasted only two years and the elective commission was restored.

The Sun-Herald newspaper at Biloxi recently published a series of four articles entitled "MDOT the Fourth Branch" which detailed in depth how the state's highway agency has become an awesome, impenetrable political force in Mississippi. Anyone in state or local government who crosses MDOT does so at his own risk, the Sun-Herald concludes. It backs up the assertion with cases that illustrate how the highway commission can throw its weight around.

To begin with, MDOT has a \$1 billion annual budget and more than 3300 employees scattered around the state. That in itself gives the agency leverage in helping or hurting local economies.

Even one of the three presently elected commissioners, the Central district's Dick Hall, a Republican, has felt the wrath of the agency after he got the commission to fire Butch Brown as director four years ago for jacking up his salary by \$50,000 and buying a helicopter for the agency.

When Northern District commissioner Bill Minor (no relation to this writer) was elected to the body in 2003, he joined with Southern District Commissioner Wayne Brown (no relation to Butch) and rehired Butch at a \$137,635 salary.

Since then Hall has been banished from keeping his office in the palatial \$20 million new MDOT office building (that's a story in itself) and is operating out of a trailer in rural Rankin County.

Meantime, vehicle movement on the Gulf Coast is badly crippled as

two vital Highway 90 bridges--the Biloxi-Ocean Springs span and the bridge over the Bay of St. Louis--still lie in a wreckage of broken concrete from Katrina as debate between MDOT and local (as well as some state) officials rages.

What type of structure is built to connect Biloxi and Ocean Springs is the hottest potato. MDOT is pushing a six-lane high-rise bridge (some call it a tower of Babel) with no drawspan while feisty Ocean Springs Mayor Connie Moran is staunchly fighting to stick with a four-lane bridge similar to what Gov. Haley Barbour's Mississippi Renewal Forum suggested.

This bridge fight could very well have state-level political legs and bring Barbour into the fray to take on MDOT's structure and how the behemoth operates. As the cliché goes, stay tuned.

Schools -- N. Bay, Waveland

Continued from Page 1

center building was more than 50 percent damaged, and if the other two buildings come back with the same damage report, then Waveland may have to be relocated as well.

Stasny also said that a decision has not been made on Second Street Elementary.

"Second Street did not get much water, but underneath there was a lot of damage with the word 'and mud,'" Stasny said.

With the status of the schools in limbo, the school board trustees were cautious about making any definite plans.

"We just don't know all of our options here," said trustee David Mayley.

"We should be patient," said trustee Beth Keith. "We can't make any decisions until we hear from FEMA."

The main question will be whether it would be

more cost effective to build new schools or just raise the elevations of the old ones.

"How do you raise a school?" Board President Dr. Sherry Ponder asked. "Do you jack it up on the slab?" Ponder joked.

Fortunately for the school board, the FEMA representative told the trustees that whatever they decide, FEMA will fund, as long as it is built up to the new elevation.

Stasny took time to explain the board's finances to the trustees. Stasny said that the board has received 3.7 million dollars from a project worksheet from FEMA, and that there is another 12 million in project worksheets still pending. The board has received 5 million dollars in insurance, and is expecting more insurance. The board has received 6 million dollars from a loan from the Mississippi Development Bank, and

the board could also receive another 7 million in start up funds from the state. Stasny said that as of this week the board has paid out over 9.8 million in expenses.

"We have been walking a tight line with the budget, but we are making it," Stasny said.

Attendance for the school district has been on a steady climb, and for the first time the attendance figures for the Bay-Waveland School District reached the 60 percent mark. Stasny reported that Bay High School is at 73 percent, Bay Middle is at 57 percent, Second Street is at 52 percent, North Bay is at 61 percent, and Waveland Elementary is at 51 percent.

Monday's meeting was also a chance for the district to give out some awards. The principals for all five of the districts schools received the AYP award, giving out to

schools who's students achieve a certain level on test scores. Stasny also presented the trustees with a certificate from the Governor's office honoring School Board Member Recognition Week.

Board members then got a special Valentine's gift from the students of North Bay Elementary. Each Trustee got a big card with messages and words from students inside of it.

"This is a wonderful gift," Ponder said. The rest of the trustees echoed her comments.

After the presentations, the trustees took time to congratulate Stasny, who has been recently elected as President of the Mississippi Association of School Administrators. The association provides support for all levels of school administration.

Taylor -- town meeting

Continued from Page 1

said, the government is stepping in with the Homeowners Assistance Program, issued through the Mississippi Development Authority.

"I think that for the vast majority of people, it's a heck of a good deal," Taylor said. He praised Sen. Thad Cochran as the "hero of the team" for helping push the plan through the Senate; and Gov. Haley Barbour for helping get the plan on track through the MDA.

Under the program, the federal government will provide around \$4 billion to the state which will be administered in the form of Community Development Block Grants.

The grants will provide up to \$150,000 for homes that were outside the federally designated flood zone, yet flooded due to Hurricane Katrina.

Barbour and the MDA must submit a plan acceptable to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Barbour said in a statement issued Monday that "I am confident our plan will meet HUD's requirements and we will be allowed to quickly get essential money into the hands of coastal homeowners who desperately need the help as they consider their options."

MDA is working to have applications for the program available on-

line by Feb. 20.

According to the program guidelines, "In general, homeowners may receive up to \$150,000 or the insured value of their home (whichever is less), less any insurance proceeds or payments from FEMA, not to exceed the value of damage."

If the homeowner has received an SBA homeowner disaster loan, by federal law, the grant would first be used to repay the disaster loan."

To qualify for the grant, the home must have been owner-occupied as of Aug. 29 and located in Hancock, Harrison, Jackson or Pearl River counties; must be outside of the federally designated

100-year flood zone, yet flooded due to Katrina; and must have had homeowners' insurance.

Anyone who receives the grant must agree to comply with 2003 International Building Codes and new FEMA Advisory Flood maps. Homeowners must agree to make repairs in accordance with those codes; and will be required to buy flood insurance.

Other details will be released "soon," Barbour said, such as the website for making on-line applications, phone numbers and how to schedule an appointment with one of MDA's Operations Centers.

DO YOU WANT TO BE SAVED?

Only one time, in the entire Bible, is the question asked. What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). In the next verse (Acts 16:31) the question is answered, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."**

Remember:

Hell's Hot
Life's Short
Death's Sure
Eternity's Long
and, "There Ain't No Exits In Hell."

NO MAN KNOWS, HOW SOON IT IS TOO LATE

"Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain." Exodus 20:7

Any way that you use God's Name, the Lord's Name, Jesus' Name, other than in a Holy Manner, is taking His Name in vain.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 indicate that, "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." In the next verse, Romans 10:14 it says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" Believing precedes calling upon the Name of the Lord, Jesus Himself said in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." God reaffirms this truth in 1 Timothy 2:5 saying "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." When someone says "repeat this prayer after me to be saved: it is making people feel like they have to 'do' something to be saved, other than believing. If someone is asked to say a prayer to be saved, the person who says the prayer is still on his way to hell, after repeating the prayer, if he hasn't believed in his heart. Nowhere in the Bible is it found that a person has to pray a prayer to be saved. God does not hear a prayer unless you go to God in the name of Jesus Christ, **The Only Mediator between God and man.** Jesus Christ is not your Mediator unless he is your Lord and Savior. So according to God, the steps are, first, you **believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.** By believing as Acts 16:31 indicates, you are **saved!** Acts 16:30, 31 is the only time in the Bible where the question is asked, "what must I do to be saved?" God answering through Paul said, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."** By being saved, Jesus Christ is your Lord, Savior, and Mediator between God and yourself. Now you can pray to God, because you have the Mediator, Jesus Christ.

I believe that when a person "prays" to God, without being saved, his prayer goes no higher than the ceiling, and God probably says, "Who do you think you are, to think that you can come to Me, without coming to Me in the only possible way that I have set out in My Word? For you come to Me, through My Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the One and Only Mediator between you and Me." You don't just pull Jesus Christ out of the air, and say today I want You to get me to God; be my go-between for God! It doesn't work that way. Jesus Christ is either your Lord and Savior, asking Him your Mediator, or, if Jesus Christ is not your Lord and Savior, He is not your Mediator. I believe it is very important to stress that you are saved by **believing only.** John 3:16, probably the most quoted verse in the Bible, says that, "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Again this passage clearly prescribes believing, not repeating a prayer. In John 3:4, Nicodemus asks Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" He was asking this in regard to Jesus' statement in John 3:3, that a man needs to be born again. Jesus' answer in John 3:5 and following is "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." Nowhere does Jesus say, pray to be saved, it is **always believe.**

Years ago, I heard Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse say "I'm deeply offended when I hear a prayer that does not end with the idea that God must be approached only through the Name and the Being of the Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:13 says "In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that ye **believed,** ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Romans 10:9 tells us "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe** in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." For with the heart man believeth (first) unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession (next) is made unto salvation." How many people have gone to hell or are going to hell by putting their trust in the ungodly "pray the sinners prayer" or "repeat this prayer after me," instead of **believing** John 3:36: "He that **believe**th on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Luke 23:39-43 tells us "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 45 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 46 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 47 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 48 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise. 49 **You don't fool Jesus.** Jesus **knew** that this man **believed** in Him; that this man **believed** that this Jesus that he was talking with was the Lord, The Messiah, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Savior, and in believing, the man was saved. Now if you think that you have to pray first, repeat first, or **anything** first, before believing, why did Jesus tell him what that was? Jesus doesn't make mistakes! God's Word is true. You don't (really you can't), add to or take away from God's Word, and it be true. Just leave His Word alone, and do what God said, **believe.** Psalm 119:89 "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Revelations 22:18, 19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if an man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Take your Bible and check the references that we contained herein—nothing added to and nothing taken away; and when you hear "the plan of salvation: from anyone, get your Bible out and see if it is God speaking or "someone's" idea. I can't see "10 steps" to salvation, I can see only one step: believe. The malefactor on the cross had but one step, and he took it. You, I, we all have "one step," **believe.** Please take it, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation.

1 All Scripture references are from The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

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Hancock School Board President, Morgan Lüdner and Board Member Peggy Lüdner join Hancock Middle School students in the lunch line last week.

School Board Recognition Week

SEA COAST ECHO

In conjunction with Mississippi School Board Recognition Week, the Hancock County Board of Education and Superintendent of Education Davis Kopf visited each school in the Hancock County School District.

The tour began at East Hancock Elementary School where Cheryl Ramseyer, principal, led board members on a tour of Power Hour classes. Power Hour is an hour of reading above and beyond the hour designated for Language Arts. East Hancock Elementary was recently recognized as a finalist in literacy in the "Schools of Distinction" Awards program sponsored by Intel and Scholastic.

The second stop on the tour was Hancock North Central Elementary where board members toured the school with principal, Katie Warren. The highlight of the tour was seeing the completed playground and outdoor

classroom donated to the school by Kaboom!.

The next stop on the tour took the School Board to the temporary site of Gulfview Elementary, behind Hancock Middle School, where Jan White, principal, showed board members the trailer that is being used to create a library for the students. Board members also visited a 2nd grade classroom where they were treated to a presentation of "The United States of America".

The Board then moved next door to the temporary site of Charles B. Murphy where principal, Lenette Ladner gave them a tour of their facilities. They visited with the students as they returned from picking up their lunches in the middle school to eat at tables on the deck outside their trailers.

Across the driveway in Hancock Middle School, the Board joined a 7th grade class for lunch. Because the Middle School cafeteria kitchen

is not yet functioning, lunches are prepared in the High School Vo-Tech and brought to the middle school and served to Charles B. Murphy, Gulfview, and Hancock Middle School students. The middle school students return to their classroom to eat. The board joined a class in their room and enjoyed visiting with them.

At Hancock High School, principal, Donnie Gholston, took the board on a tour of the High School facilities. The Board visited the Drama Department and learned of the Drama Team's successes in recent competitions.

A visit to the Athletic Department provided the Board with an overview of repairs and replacements completed and the work left to be done.

The board completed the tour of the High School by visiting the Science Department. The Board reviewed the outstanding results of the Hancock High School Math & Science Team's

participation at the Mississippi College Math and Science Tournament.

The day concluded with a tour of the Hancock County Vocational Technical Center. Director of the Center, Dr. Rick Saucier, toured the Board through the facility and updated them on the adjustments made as a result of Katrina. The conclusion at the end of the day was that the administrators, teachers, students and parents had made great strides in restoring the education process, and that as we move together as a team much can be accomplished.

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Volunteers needed for annual Special Olympic competition

SEA COAST ECHO

Volunteers are needed for this year's Special Olympics Track and Field competitions to be held at Stennis Space Center on Saturday, April 1st. These volunteers help with gaming events, escort athletes to these events, and provide hugs, smiles and encouragement throughout the day.

Athletes from Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River and Stone Counties will spend the day in competitions patterned on the World Olympics, including an opening ceremony.

Events include relays, bocce ball, wheelchair races, assisted walks, badminton, basketball, standing and running long jumps, shot put, dashes, and much more.

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for all mentally handicapped children and adults.

This gives the athletes the continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate

courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friends with their families, other Special Olympians, and the community. Through successful experiences in sports, Olympians gain confidence and build a positive self-image that carries over into the classroom, the home, the job, and the community.

Volunteers may sign up for this event at specialolympics.goldinc.com, or by calling Becky Rotundo at 228 688 5328.

Fish And Wildlife Expo slated for Feb. 24-26

The seventh annual spring Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Expo will be held at the Canton/Madison County Multipurpose Complex in Canton on February 24 - 26. The Complex is located on Soldier's Colony Road and

Watford Drive, which is near the Nissan Plant.

Hunters and outdoor enthusiasts can get the latest information and equipment on their favorite outdoor activity. Emphasis will be on fishing, hunting, camping and other spring and

summer outdoor activities. Show Hours are: February 24, Friday, 3 pm - 9 pm; February 25, Saturday, 10 am - 8 pm; February 26, Sunday, 12 pm - 5 pm. Admission is: Under Six - Free; Six to Twelve - \$4.00; Adults - \$6.00.

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Obituaries

EDWARD FERNANDEZ SR.
MARGARETT LEMOINE
MARJORIE MATRANGA
MARY MORAN
EMMA LEE POWELL

EDWARD FERNANDEZ SR.

Edward Louis Fernandez, Sr., of Diamondhead, MS died on Friday, February 10, 2006 in Gulfport, MS. He was born in New Orleans, LA and was a resident of Diamondhead, MS for the past 20 years. He was a graduate of Loyola University and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Pacific. He was a member of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Kiln, MS. He served on the Board of Diamondhead Property Owners Association. He was also a member of Toastmasters, Knights of Columbus, and the Rotary International. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kathleen K. Fernandez of Diamondhead, MS; and his children, Ed Fernandez, Jr. & wife Carin of Destrehan, LA, Deborah Pope of New Orleans, LA, and Rebecca Blum and husband Dave of Metairie, LA. He is also survived by 5 grandchildren, Nicole, Jordan, Jeremy, Laura, and Philip.

Visitation is Tuesday, February 14, 2006 from 10:00 am until 11:00 am at Annunciation Catholic Church in Kiln, MS. A Mass will follow at 11:00 am.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS is in charge of

the arrangements.

MARGARETT LEMOINE

Margarett Christine Whittington Bello Lemoine, 58 of Pearlinton, MS died on Saturday, February 11, 2006 in Pearlinton, MS. She was born in Liberty, MS on July 26, 1947 and has lived in Bay St. Louis, and Pearlinton, MS for the past 40 years.

She is preceded in death by her father, Samuel Whittington.

She is survived by her children, Henry Bello of Pearlinton, MS, Douglas Bello and his wife Judy of Pearlinton, MS, P.J. Lemoine & wife Mandy of Pearlinton, MS, Collin Lemoine & wife Heather of Lakeshore, MS, and Daphane Bello of Pearlinton, MS; mother, Christine Brown of Slidell, LA; brothers, Dwight Whittington of Lumberton, MS, Calvin Whittington of Pearlinton, MS, Vincent Whittington of Slidell, LA; sister, Barbara Bosarge of Blythe, GA. She is also survived by 6 grandchildren, Beau, Katelin, Christian, Glenda, Alyssa, and one on the way, as well as nieces and nephews.

Her visitation will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS. Interment will follow in Logtown Cemetery in Logtown, MS.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS is in charge of the arrangements.

MARJORIE MATRANGA

Marjorie Lee Matranga, 51 of Waveland, MS died

August 29, 2005 in Waveland, MS. She was of the Baptist Faith and was a homemaker. She received a business degree from William Carey College.

She is preceded in death by her father, Paul Matranga of New Orleans, LA and her mother, Juliet Matranga of Waveland, MS.

She is survived by her daughter, Cherie Snipes and her son-in-law, Michael Catledge, Jr.; two grandchildren, Marissa Harris and Michael Catledge, III; brother, Alfred Matranga; nephew, Michael Matranga and his wife, Alisia; two nieces, Becky and Susan Matranga; two great nephews, Carson and Gavin Matranga; great niece, Araina Matranga all of Chalmette, LA.

Arrangements are incomplete at this time at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home because of displacement of family and friends.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS is in charge.

MARY MORAN

Mary Catherine Moran, 78 of Waveland, MS died on Friday, February 10, 2006 in Gulfport, MS. She was born in Logtown, MS and was a lifelong resident of Hancock County, MS. She was a member of Waveland United Methodist Church in Waveland, MS. Mary Catherine was a Legal Secretary for the Law Firm of Favre, Genin, and Scaife for over 50 years and a member of the Legal Secretary Association.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, Kathleen M. Register; her parents, Isaac and

Ruby Bennett; three brothers and two sisters.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Leo Moran of Waveland, MS; her daughter, Terri Moran Sinclair of Hattiesburg, MS; sister, Connie Lambrix of Lucerne, CA. She is also survived by 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be on Sunday, February 12, 2006 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS. Friends may also call at the Funeral Home on Monday, February 13, 2006 from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm. Interment will follow in Logtown Cemetery in Logtown, MS.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS is in charge of the arrangements.

EMMA LEE POWELL

Mrs. Emma Lee Powell, 96, of Kiln, MS died on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 in Meridian, MS. A native of Greenhead, MS, Mrs. Powell was a member of the Powell House of Deliverance. She was preceded in death by a husband, Elder Loray Powell; a sister, Melvina Haynes, and two brothers, Charlie Gillium and Willie Parker. She is survived by two sisters, Rosie V. Taylor of Bay St. Louis, MS and Stella Williams of New Orleans, LA. Visitation will be held Wednesday, February 15, 2006 from 1:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Baylous Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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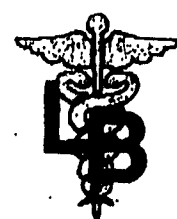
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Mt. Chapel to host 'Friends & Family'

On Sunday, February 19th, 2006 at 3:30 p.m., Mount Chapel Baptist Church of Waveland will celebrate its annual Family and Friends Day with a re-dedication of the Church building following the devastation

suffered during Hurricane Katrina.

Katrina's wrath flooded the Church with more than 7 feet of water, causing complete destruction of every thing in the building, from the pulpit and pews, to the kitchen, bathrooms and offices.

Through it all, Mount Chapel never stopped worshipping and lifting the name of Jesus.

Church services were held at the home of a

church member and then outside in the church parking lot, until the Sanctuary was safe enough to enter.

Although still under construction, we have been blessed to be able to move back in to the church and are looking forward to celebrating with all of our Family and Friends in during this joyous occasion.

Our Guest speaker will be Pastor Michael

Kelley of St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church of Picayune, MS.

All are welcome: choirs, groups, soloists, dance or praise teams, to celebrate

with us during this great occasion. Mount Chapel is located at 721 Herlihy Street in Waveland, MS. For additional information contact Sis. Michelle Johnson at (228) 342-1038.

*In Loving
 Memory of*



Judy O. Miller

Feb. 16, 1949 ~
 Nov. 28, 1996

So much time has gone by now, yet it still seems like only yesterday in our hearts. They say time will heal the pain, but time can't take away what we feel inside each and every day without you. We love and miss you so very much. You will forever be in our hearts and always on our minds.

*All Our Love Always
 Your Family and Friends*

Nereids to roll Feb. 19 at 1

The Krewe of Nereids is set to roll with their annual Mardi Gras Parade on Sunday Feb. 19, at 1:00 PM. This years parade will be the 40th year the Parade has run. The Parade will follow the traditional route from the K-Mart parking lot, east to the post office, and then back west to Our Shopping Center in Waveland.

This year's grand marshal will be Congressman Gene Taylor. There will be no court this year. 115 ladies will be riding on 10 floats. Following Nereids

will be the Krewe of Eros, with just two floats, and the Krewe of

Hancock with 45 entries. Waveland Civic Assoc. will have three floats.

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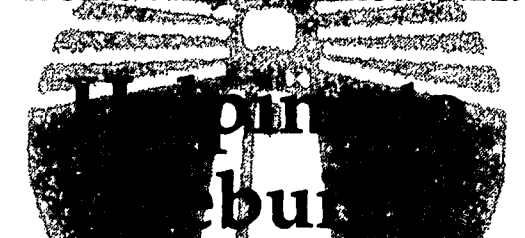
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Sports

OLA falls 1-0 to Madison St. Joe in finals

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
Staff Writer

For the first time this century, OLA will not be the Class 1A-2A-3A state soccer champions. The Crescents lost their bid for an unprecedented seventh consecutive state title with a 1-0 decision against Madison-St. Joseph High School on Friday night at Millsaps College.

OLA advanced to the Class 1A-2A-3A state championship game the last seven years and had won the title six consecutive times.

During a game that featured wind gusts of 20 mph and torrential downpours, the Crescents were unable to get a shot to rip the net.

However, Janet Self of Madison-St. Joe tallied the game's only score on a penalty kick from about 25 yards out. It was a shot that was neither a fluke nor a scripted shot. However, it was one that Madison-St. Joe players and fans would not touch the net.

OLA head coach Christi Elias commented, "St. Joe played better

than we did tonight. There can be no excuses with the weather because both teams had to play in it. We simply came up a goal short. It was a free kick that could have gone either way. We did not put the ball in the net on the other end of the field. I am extremely proud of the girls during this season of incredible obstacles.

"We have battled against a ruthless storm, lost players and injured players. I have a tremendous amount of respect for this team and each individual. We represented our school and community well. I am very proud that these girls gave us a chance to win another state title. The current streak may be over but the amount of championships that OLA will have the opportunity to win is not over."

And what a streak it was for Mississippi's first girls' soccer team and arguably the most successful team in history. Seven trips to the championship game and six titles.

USM Lady Golden Eagles to host Hancock County Day

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
Staff Writer

The Lady Golden Eagles of the University of the Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg will host Hancock County Day on Friday, February 17th when the Memphis Lady Tigers roll into town for a Conference USA matchup at 7 p.m.

The Lady Tigers of Memphis are led by former Hancock County great Devin Necaie while USM features Bay High's Kendra Reed, Hancock's Ashley Boehnel and head coach Joye Lee-McNelis.

The Lady Golden Eagles will honor all city and county government leaders from Hancock County, as well as, collecting non-perishable food items for distribution to the Hancock County Food Pantry. Assisting with the collection of these items will be Hancock County's Junior Miss Victoria Romano along with Katy Morris, Megan Schmidt, Jennifer Null, Rachell Moore, Jineca Garriaga

and moderator Sandy Garriga.

Lee-McNelis commented, "This is a huge game and we wanted to do something to honor Hancock County and recognize all that they have been through with Hurricane Katrina and the months following. We thought with Devin Necaie coming in with Memphis and her ties with Hancock County, coupled with, the ties of Kendra Reed, Ashley Boehnel and myself, that this would be a great opportunity."

With injuries to most of the starting lineup, Lee-McNelis has had to rely on the help of freshmen Reed and Boehnel to carry the load. And, they have responded.

Lee-McNelis continued, "They have been major cogs in our success in conference play. While they have had to undergo major adjustments to Division I basketball in short time, they have displayed they have what it takes to succeed at this level."

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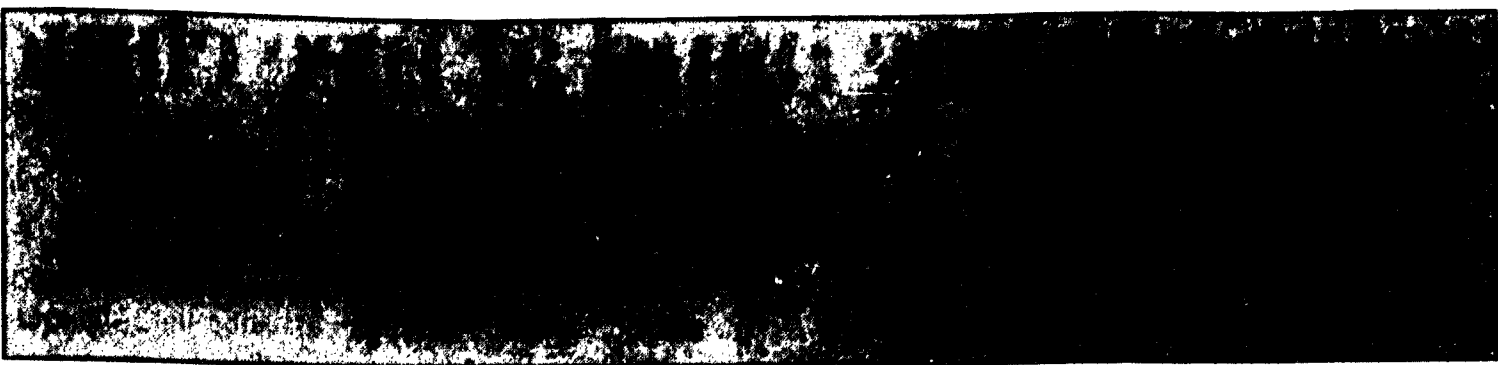
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Bay Firefighters give helping hand at free clinic

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

Firefighters and EMT's from the Bay St. Louis Fire Department have been assisting the doctors and nurses at the Loudoun Medical Clinic at the Bay St. Louis Train Depot over the last two weeks.

The clinic has been providing free medical care for Hancock County residents since a few weeks after the storm, and many of the doctors and nurses have been working rotations from Virginia.

"The group had a shortage of nurses, so we decided to help out for a while," said Pam San Fillippo, a RN for the fire department.

San Fillippo said that the fire department does not mind helping out, since they have not been too busy of late.

"This have given us a unique break," San Fillippo said. "Right after the storm, we were very busy, but now there is less to do. A lot of people have left, so we are not getting the calls that we



A group of firefighters and EMT's from the Bay St. Louis Fire Department have been assisting at the Loudoun medical clinic at the Bay St. Louis Train Depot.

once did."

San Fillippo believes that the clinic is providing a vital service right now, and she is happy to be a part of it, even though it has been a

source of controversy.

"I know that there are a lot of mixed feelings, especially from the doctors point of view," San Fillippo said. "I understand how they feel, but

I think it is still vital to the community. There are a lot of older people and children without insurance."

Residents who use the clinic are also thankful

that the clinic has remained open.

"It's good for those of us with no job and insurance," said Connie Gomillion.

Gomillion was an employee of Casino Magic, and she said that her insurance ran out in November, and she will have to wait until the Casino reopens before she can afford insurance again.

The Loudoun has said that they will keep the clinic open until the springtime, but if the needs of the community are still there then they may stay longer. Currently, the clinic is

seeing about 70 to 100 patients per day.

The Bay St. Louis Fire Department will be assisting until the end of this week.

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